



All round performer

Richard Kilpatrick takes Sigma's 8mm EX DG f/3.5 fisheye lens for a spin, and says that, if it doesn't belong in your kit bag full time, you should probably hire it



Interior of Volvo V70 shot with Sigma 8mm f/3.5 fisheye lens on a Sigma SD14 DSLR. The lens offers a full-circle reproduction on a full frame camera, or the slight cut-off seen here on the smaller (1.7x factor) Sigma SD14 sensor.

Sigma's revised 8mm fisheye occupies a unique place in the market as the only AF 8mm fisheye available. Replacing the f4, the basic appearance of the lens remains unchanged, but the results are improved. Offering apertures from f/3.5-22, the improved model is sharper and faster than the outgoing f/4, with an 11-element design and six-blade diaphragm providing

the immediate technical differences. As with the previous 8mm, there is a mount on the rear of the lens for a gelatine filter.

Offering a full circle reproduction on a full frame camera, or the slight cut-off seen here on the smaller (1.7x factor) Sigma SD14 sensor, the 8mm is one of those lenses that everyone should consider if looking to expand their horizons. Modern DSLRs offer

**To advertise in f2
please contact
Simon James
07787 507737
simon@ec1
publishing.com**

When responding to advertisements, please mention you saw the advert in f2. In the long term, it helps us to keep the cost of subscriptions down

high enough resolutions to ensure that a square crop from the centre of the sensor would yield a decent image size with a wide range of applications, from creative shots to practical applications like car interiors.

Cleland Volvo allowed me to crawl about in the new V70 to test the lens and, although I had less than ideal light and equipment (composition, handheld, with the fisheye feels intuitive, but I find the edges are never quite as well placed as I'd have liked) I am particularly pleased with the shots, in that they show the car's ability to provide a near-flat loading area from boot to dashboard, with the dashboard shot itself cropped from a front seats/windows view. A higher-resolution camera and careful composition would yield a very marketable image in these circumstances.

The revised 8mm f/3.5 has a recommended price of £599, and can be picked up for around £500. Some online retailers are still offering the f/4 model, and it's worth being aware that its price is not significantly lower, despite the 8mm f/3.5 being a significant improvement.

It is a lens almost without competition, and justifies the EX DG branding. If not an essential purchase, it is definitely something that every photographer should hire or borrow - the 180° angle of view it provides on your subjects could generate a wealth of stock material. **f2**